* Providing financial incentives for promoting export of tea, coffee and natural rubber
* Implementation of medium term export strategies for tea, coffee and natural rubber, prepared through private consultants
* Undertaking campaigns to promote domestic consumption of tea and coffee
* Notification of Tea Marketing Control Order 2003 and issuance of directives for new auction rules to provide greater transparency in the price discovery mechanism for tea
* Fixation and notification of minimum prices for natural rubber
* Enforcement of quality standards formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on imported rubber as already in force on domestic rubber

All the above steps taken by the Government are in addition to implementation of different developmental schemes by the concerned Commodity Boards under which various types of financial and technical assistance are provided to the growers.

Floriculture export

2700. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY :

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether floriculture exports from the country have gone up during the last two years;

(b) if so, the States exporting more floriculture products; and

(c) the measures proposed to encourage the floriculturists to grow more flowers to increase trade further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fresh flowers are mainly exported from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, whereas dried flowers are being exported mainly from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) Government has approved setting up of market-cum-flower auction centre for export of flowers at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida. Further, six Agri Export Zones (AEZ) for flowers have been notified by the Government in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Uttaranchal to increase production and export of floriculture products.

Screening Committee for deputation to Singapore

2701. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Screening Committee for deputation to Singapore for participation in Second Round of Negotiations on the Indo-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) held on the 1st to 3rd July, 2003 has taken a number of decisions;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed in the above meeting and the delegations participated therein;

(c) the decisions taken so far by CECA on various issues; and

(d) how many meetings have been held so far, date-wise and venue-wise and when the next meeting has been fixed with the details of the subjects, Ministry-wise, likely to be included in CECA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) Screening Committee had decided to depute to Singapore a delegation of 25 Government members and 4 outsiders for the second round of negotiations on India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) which were held there from 1-3 July, 2003.

(b) A number of subjects including investment facilitation, investment dialogue, investment framework, insurance and insurance related services, India-Singapore investment fund, financial services, legal and dispute settlement issues, trade in goods, rules of origin, cooperation in customs, air services, tourism and culture; trade in services and mutual recognition agreement in various sectors, etc. were discussed during the second round of negotiations. Representatives from the concerned Ministries/ Departments/Agencies participated in the Negotiations.